

REMARKS

Claim 8 is pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 8 is amended to correct typographical errors in the claim. No new matter is added.

The Office Action rejects claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sato et al. (JP 10149958 A) or under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Sato et al., alone, or in combination with Shimodaira et al. (U.S. Patent No.6,038,123). The Office Action also rejects claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Sato et al.

The pending claim requires “[A]n activated carbon for an electric double-layer capacitor, comprising: an activated carbon material having a crystal structure with base faces laminated to one another to form edge faces wherein an area rate of the edge faces is at least equal to or greater than 20%, said activated carbon material being formed from graphitizing carbon which is a carbonized material of meso-phase pitch, wherein the activated carbon material has an electrostatic capacity density exceeding 80 F/cc while having a specific surface area equal to or less than 1,500 m²/g.”

Sato et al. do disclose that the “easily graphitizable organic substance used in the [Sato et al.] invention generally designates an organic compound from which a graphite structure is easily formed by a calcination treatment at a relatively low temperature...[and that examples] thereof may include...mesophase pitch...” (see column 7, lines 36-44).

Sato et al. do not disclose any embodiments including mesophase pitch, and thus do not disclose any embodiments that meet the other required limitations of the present claim. For example, Sato et al. nowhere specifically teach an activated carbon,

formed from a carbonized material of meso-phase pitch, that has an electrostatic capacity density exceeding 80 F/cc while having a specific surface area equal to or less than 1500 m²/g, as required by the present claim. Since at least this limitation is not taught by Sato et al., we believe that the presently claimed invention can not be anticipated thereby.

Also, the present claim requires that the activated carbon material have a crystal structure with base faces laminated to one another to form edge faces, wherein an area rate of the edge faces is at least equal to or greater than 20%.

Additionally, we note that the present specification demonstrates unexpected results achieved by the presently claimed invention. In particular, "[I]t can be seen from Fig. 6 that the electrostatic capacity density C_d is higher when the specific surface area S is equal to or smaller than 1500 m²/g, i.e., $S < 1500$ m²/g. As seen from Fig. 6, the graph is substantially linear from about 3500 m²/g to about 1500 m²/g and then takes a sharp upward turn heading toward 500 m²/g. It is nowhere teach or suggest that such unexpected results achieved by the presently claimed invention would or could have been achieved following the teachings of Sato et al., alone or in combination with Shimodaira et al.

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below to schedule a personal or telephone interview to discuss any remaining issues.

In the event that this paper is not considered to have been timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing attorney docket no. 107348-00047.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert K. Carpenter", written over a horizontal line.

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